

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00153 311339Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 153

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID NS EEC
SUBJ: \$20 MILLION IN EUROPEAN AID FOR SURINAM

1. EEC DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT MAURICE FOLEY
CONCLUDED HIS WEEK-LONG VISIT TO PARAMARIBO JANUARY 28
WITH THE SIGNING OF A TENTATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
SURINAM TOTALING \$20 MILLION. FOLEY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
SECTION CHIEF A. BERRNS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR P. KLEYN
LANKHORST, AND ADMINISTRATORS DRS. S. BROUWER AND G. HILD.
SURINAM'S MINISTERS OF DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE SIGNED
ON BEHALF OF THE SURINAM GOVERNMENT (GOS).

2. THE GOS HAD EARLIER SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO BE FINANCED
FROM THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUNDS IN KEEPING WITH OVERALL
OBJECTIVES IN ITS MULTI-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. PROJECTS
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00153 311339Z

TO BE FINANCED WITH THE EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE INCLUDE
PAVING THE APPROXIMATELY 80 KM. ROAD FROM PARANAM TO
THE HYDROELECTRIC PLANT AT AFOBAKKA (\$8.5 MILLION),
\$4.5 MILLION IN CREDIT LINES FOR SURINAM'S AGRICULTURAL
BANK AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND \$3.6 MILLION
FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND TRAINING. APPROXIMATELY
\$600,000 IS SET ASIDE TO PROMOTE TRADE IN ACCORDANCE

WITH ARTICLE 13 OF THE LOME CONVENTION, WHICH INCLUDES SURINAM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

3. HOW THE EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE WILL BE DIVIDED AS FAR AS LOANS AND GRANTS REMAINS TO BE DECIDED AFTER FURTHER STUDY OF THE CONCERNED PROJECTS. THE TENTATIVE PLAN IS REGARDED AS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PERMIT ALTERNATIONS LATER ON TO ACCOMMODATE CHANGES INSURINAM'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. THE DISCUSSIONS ALSO REPORTEDLY LED TO A DECISION TO REASSIGN \$10 MILLION PREVIOUSLY SET ASIDE AS A EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE STONDANSIE PROJECT (AN IRRIGATION PROJECT IN WEST SURINAM), WHICH THE GOS APPEARS TO BE DEEMPHASIZING IN FAVOR OF A NEW CANAL ALONG THE CORANTIJN RIVER, BUT NO NEW USE FOR THE MONEY HAS YET BEEN AGREED UPON.

4. COMMENT: THE \$20 MILLION OFFERED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS A TINY AMOUNT WHEN COMPARED TO THE APPROXIMATELY \$1.5 BILLION BEING MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DUTCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN SURINAM. NONETHELESS, THE GOS WILL BE HAPPY TO HAVE THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AT ITS DISPOSAL ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE HOPED-FOR PROJECTS ARE IN FACT IMPLEMENTED.
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